applications are accompanied with a certificate from the employer for protection of seniority of the employees on their selection;

(b) if so, whether there have been any cases where the seniority, pay an promotion of the candidates belonging to various organisations selected under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) during the years 1985-88 were not protected; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The applications of the employees of various public sector undertakings, forwarded through proper channel are registererd. Although the relevant guidelines advise the employers to protect the lien and seniority of the employees released for foreign assignments, it has not been made obligatory for the employers to furnish certificates to that effect.

(b) According to the available record, there is one case where the seniority of an officer deputed under the ITEC assignment was not protected by his employer..

(c) The case relates to Shri Sudhir Kumar of BHEL. He has filed a Civil Suit in the Delhi High Court, which is being defended. The case is sub-judice.

Reserve Stock of Foodgrains

4952. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the reserve stock of foodgrains available with the Government;

(b) whether the foodgrains are supplied to draught hit areas to the weaker sections and Adivasis from the stock available;

(c) if so, the quantity thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The foodgrains (rice and wheat) stocks in the Central Pool were of the order of 18.12 million tonnes as on 1st August, 1991.

(b), (c) and (d). The allocations of foodgrains to the various States/ UTs from the Central Pool for Public Distribution System are meant for the State as a whole. The distribution in different areas within the State is the concern of the State Government. however, 18.60 lakh tonnes (Provisional) of foodgrains (rice and wheat) were distributed a specially subsidized prices to Integral Tribal development Project areas etc. during 1990-91. These quantities were distributed out of the allocations are made to the States/UTs for weaker sections.

Adulteration in Cement

4953. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some arrests for adulterating cement have been made during 1990 and upto July, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union-Territory-wise;

(c) whether incidents of adulteration of cement bags are on the increase;

(d) whether the Government propose to change the containers of cement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). Powers have been delegated to the States/Union Territories for enforcement of the Cement Quality Control Order, 1962. Action against adulteration of cement is taken by local administration authorities. Figures of arrests are not maintained centrally.

(d) There is no proposal at present to change the containers of cement.

(e) Does not arise.

Electronic Digital Meter

4954. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electronic digital meter for motor car is covered under the Standard of Weights and Measures Act, 1976;

(b) whether the electronic meter has been got approved as per the law;

(c) if not, the circumstances under which the Union Government have allowed the sale of electronic digital meter in Goa, Maharashtra, Mizoram and also to Maruti Udyog Ltd., and

(d) The action proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The specification of the electronic digital meter for taxis has been prescribed under the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976. Further, according to the Act, the model of the electronic digital meter for taxis sold in the course of inter-State trade or commerce, is to be approved by the Union Government.

(b) One application for the model approval of the electronic digital meter is under examination.

(c) and (d). As licensing to manufacture and sell measuring instruments is within the competence of the States and UTs., the information is being collected from the States concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Robots

4955. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Scientists are converting non-thinking 'robots' into thinking ones, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the names of the countries associated with the Indian Scientists in this regard; and

(c) the areas where these robots are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir. Presently no such systemetic activity is going on in converting non-thinking robots into thinking ones. However, R&D Work is being carried out in our educational and R&D institutions as well as some of our industries in developing robots (manipulators) for in-house use. A coordinated programme is being worked our in order to build competence in this important area of technology development.

(b) At present there are no international collaborations for any research work in this area.

(c) Robots are planned to be introduced on a selective basis for operations in industrial environments of hazardous nature.